

Referrals to the Child Find System

The lead agency has a responsibility to identify infants and toddlers with developmental and/or special health care needs and to coordinate the activities of the Child Find system. These activities include the monitoring and screening of those children who are considered “at risk” for developmental or health problems and referral for multidisciplinary evaluations for children who are already suspected of a delay or health care need.

There are many public and private sources in the community (referred to as primary referral sources) that make referrals to the Child Find system. Primary referral sources may include, but are not limited to:

- Hospitals
- Physicians
- Private therapists
- Nurses
- Private health clinics
- Child care programs
- Parents
- Friends or family
- District Health departments
- Developmental Disability programs
- Children and Family Services
- Other public service providers such as Head Start, Supplemental Security Income, Community Action Agencies, Medicaid, and Self Reliance.

Primary referral sources have a responsibility to initiate a referral to the Infant Toddler Program within seven (7) calendar days of identifying a child. (CFR34, Section 303.303(a)(2)(i).)

Child Find receives referrals on children at-risk for Developmental Delays or related problems from the community, coordinates the initial steps of identification and referral of the child and family, and helps assure timely and accurate assistance to obtain appropriate services.

Child Find Responsibilities

The Child Find Coordinator, with the assistance from Program Specialist, is responsible to perform the following tasks:

- Provides outreach and information to primary referral sources about the Infant Toddler Program and how to access it.
- Distributes the Idaho Infant Toddler Program brochures and materials to primary referral sources and provides information about how to make a referral.
- Contacts families that are referred (typically by phone) to provide information about the Infant Toddler Program.
- Collaborates with the family to decide where to enter the child in the Infant Toddler Program (i.e., monitoring, screening, or referral for multidisciplinary evaluation), and consults with local program personnel, as needed.
- Provides parent/guardians access, both by mail and online, to developmental screening opportunities (i.e., ASQ-3, ASQ-SE and M-CHAT questionnaires).
- Contacts parent/guardians with results of developmental screenings by mail, email or phone. Provides developmental enrichment activities and when needed, refers to the local program.
- With parental consent, provides developmental screening results to the primary medical provider.

When a referral is received from a referral source, the Child Find Coordinator:

- Determines with the family if current developmental concerns exist that warrant referral for evaluation.
- Refers a child for a multidisciplinary evaluation within seven calendar days.
- Notifies local program personnel of the referral.
- Ensures that Infant Toddler Program Brochures are provided to the parent/guardian when making a referral for a multidisciplinary evaluation.
- Provides the option to the parent/guardian to enroll their child in developmental monitoring.

When the Infant Toddler Program personnel receive a referral from the Child Find Coordinator, steps to enter the program are discussed with the family.